



Wah-Zha-Zhi Health Center



Chapter:	Ch 4 Quality of Care				Dept:	Clinical			
Standard:									
Subject:	Patient Reminders Protocol for Cancer Screenings				Effective Date:	9/20/2018			
Review Date:			Updated?	Revision Date:		Version Number:	1	Page #:	Page 1 of 2
	Yes	No							

I. Policy Statement:

Sending client reminders to patients is an evidence-based strategy to increase screening rates for breast cancer (mammography), cervical cancer (Pap test), and colorectal cancer (FOBT). A client reminder is a message advising an individual that they are due or past due for a cancer screening test. The goal of patient reminders is to increase adherence to and completion of cancer screenings by patients.

II. Purpose:

Cancer screening, or checking for cancer or abnormal tissues before symptoms develop, is an effective way to prevent cancer or ensure early detection. Cancer screening is especially important for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers. This is because screening can detect early-stage cancer or tissues that may become cancerous, effectively preventing cancer deaths and increasing the likelihood that a patient can still be treated effectively.

With increased cancer screening rates per national guidelines, many cancer deaths could be avoided. Routine patient cancer screenings are particularly effective as they can frequently prevent or detect cancers before a person develops any symptoms. Identifying abnormal tissues before disease develops or discovering cancer during early stages may make it easier for the cancer to be prevented, treated, or cured, reducing morbidity and mortality and the overall burden of disease. Cancer screening is low-risk and typically causes patients only minor discomfort or inconvenience while providing valuable results.

III. Guidelines:

	Breast Cancer	Cervical Cancer	Colorectal Cancer
USPSTF	<p>Age 40-49: mammograms should be woman's decision after learning about risks and benefits.</p> <p>Age 50-74: biennial mammograms recommended</p> <p>Age 75+: no specific recommendations.</p>	<p>Age 21-65: Pap test recommended every three years.</p> <p>OR alternately</p> <p>Age 30-65: Pap + HPV co-testing (i.e. done at the same time) every five years for women who want to extend the time period between tests.</p>	<p>Age 50-75: One of the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIT, FOBT, or FIT-DNA tests annually • FIT-DNA every three years • Colonoscopies every 10 years • CT colonoscopies and sigmoidoscopies every five years • Sigmoidoscopies every ten years with FIT testing completed annually. <p>Ages 76-85: individual decisions should be made based on patient health and history.</p>

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ACS	Age 40-44: mammograms should be woman's decision after learning about risks and benefits.	Age 21-65: Pap test recommended every three years.	Age 50+: One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonoscopies every 10 years • CT colonographies sigmoidoscopies, or double-contrast barium enemas every five years • FIT or FOBT tests annually • Stool DNA tests every three years.
	Age 45-55: annual mammograms recommended.	OR alternately	
	Age 55-74+: can continue annual mammograms or reduce screenings to every two years. Older women advised to continue screenings if healthy and expected to live at 10+ years.	Age 30-65: co-testing every five years.	

IV. Procedure:

Key steps for implementing this evidence-based approach of Patient Reminders

1. Klara Platform tool shall be implemented which allows two-way real time communication to occur between the WZZHC and its patients.
2. Identify patients who are due (reminders) or overdue (recalls) for a cancer screening test.
3. Send out "text-reminder" template or "text-recall" template to all identified patients with due/overdue cancer screenings.
4. 1 week after first reminder/recall text has been sent and following each week thereafter a "text-follow-up" motivational template shall be sent to all identified patients encouraging them to schedule their cancer screening(s) until the due/overdue cancer screening(s) have been scheduled.
5. Upon the successful scheduling of the due/overdue cancer screening the patient shall be added to the list to receive "text-educational" templates depending if their screening requires strict preparations and/or "test-accolades" templates which will praise their decision to schedule and complete the due/overdue screening with the goal of patient adhering and completing the screening.